

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,281,341 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 10/732834
DATED : October 16, 2007
INVENTOR(S) : Greg Reagan

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It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

The Title Page, showing an illustrative figure, should be deleted and substitute therefor the attached Title Page.

Delete drawings sheets 1-6 and substitute therefor the drawing sheets, consisting of figs. 1-8 as shown on the attached page.

Signed and Sealed this

First Day of January, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jon W. Dudas". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped initial "J" and a distinct "D" at the end.

JON W. DUDAS
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

(12) **United States Patent**
Reagan et al.

(10) Patent No.: **US 7,281,341 B2**
 (45) Date of Patent: **Oct. 16, 2007**

(54) **LACE SYSTEM FOR FOOTWEAR**

1,246,724 A 11/1917 Daggett

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(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

(73) Assignee: **The Burton Corporation, Burlington,**
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DE 3626837 2/1988

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
 patent is extended or adjusted under 35
 U.S.C. 154(b) by 287 days.

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(21) Appl. No.: **10/732,834**

Internet web page advertising Rollerblade Aero 9 product, printed
 on May 13, 2003.

(22) Filed: **Dec. 10, 2003**

(Continued)

(65) **Prior Publication Data**
US 2005/0126043 A1 Jun. 16, 2005

Primary Examiner—Marie Patterson
 (74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks*
P.C.

(51) Int. Cl.
A43C 11/00 (2006.01)
A43B 5/04 (2006.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

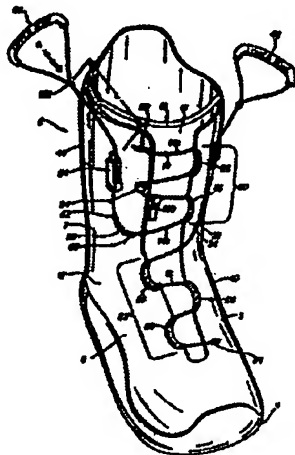
(52) U.S. Cl. **36/50.1; 36/50.5**
 (58) Field of Classification Search **36/50.1,**
36/50.5, 117.1, 136
 See application file for complete search history.

A boot incorporating techniques for making the process of tightening and loosening the laces of a boot more convenient for the wearer is disclosed. The boot may be provided with at least two independent lacing zones, the tensions of which are separately adjustable by the wearer. The zones may be secured by pulling on two laces, each of which tightens one of the two independent lacing zones. This arrangement allows the wearer to simultaneously tighten each zone, providing the wearer with the "feel" as though he or she is tightening a conventional single lacing zone boot. The laces may be simultaneously, yet independently secured by a lace lock at the upper and/or forward region of the boot. Slack may be created to facilitate loosening of the boot and easy removal of a foot from the boot by unhooking the lace from the lace guide without a corresponding distance of lace traveling through the lace lock. A release strap, graspable by the wearer, facilitates unhooking the lace.

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124 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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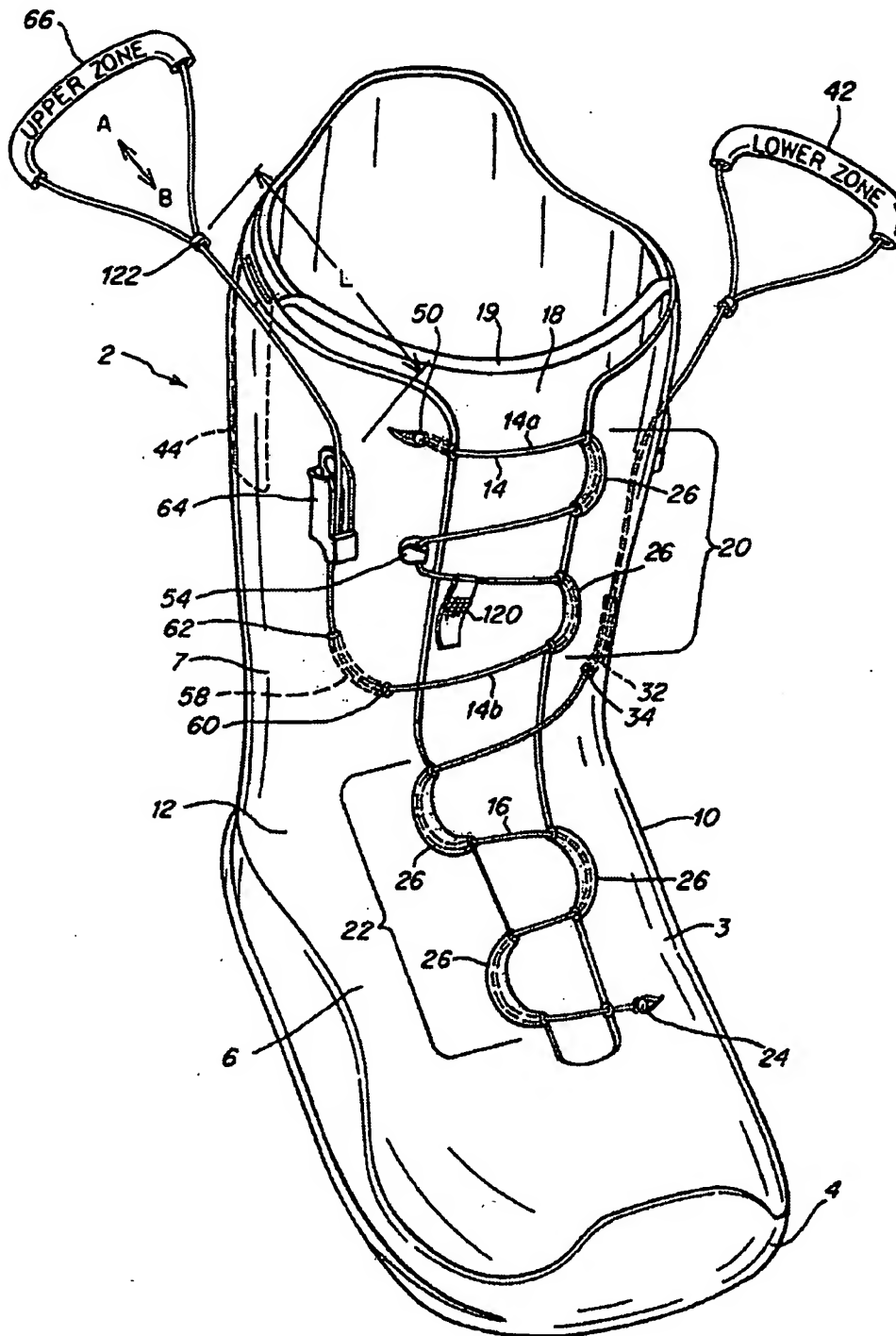


Fig. 1

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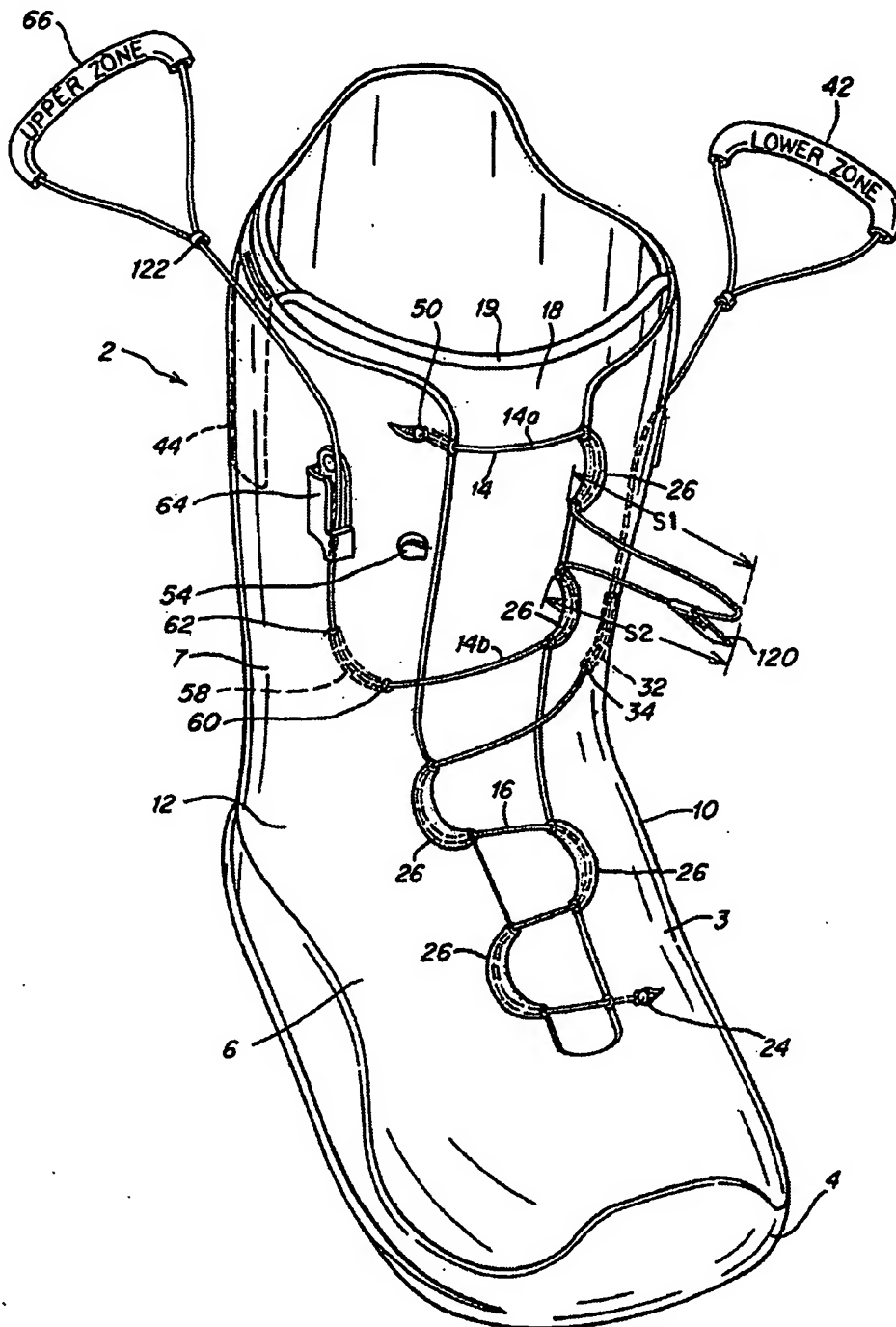


Fig. 2

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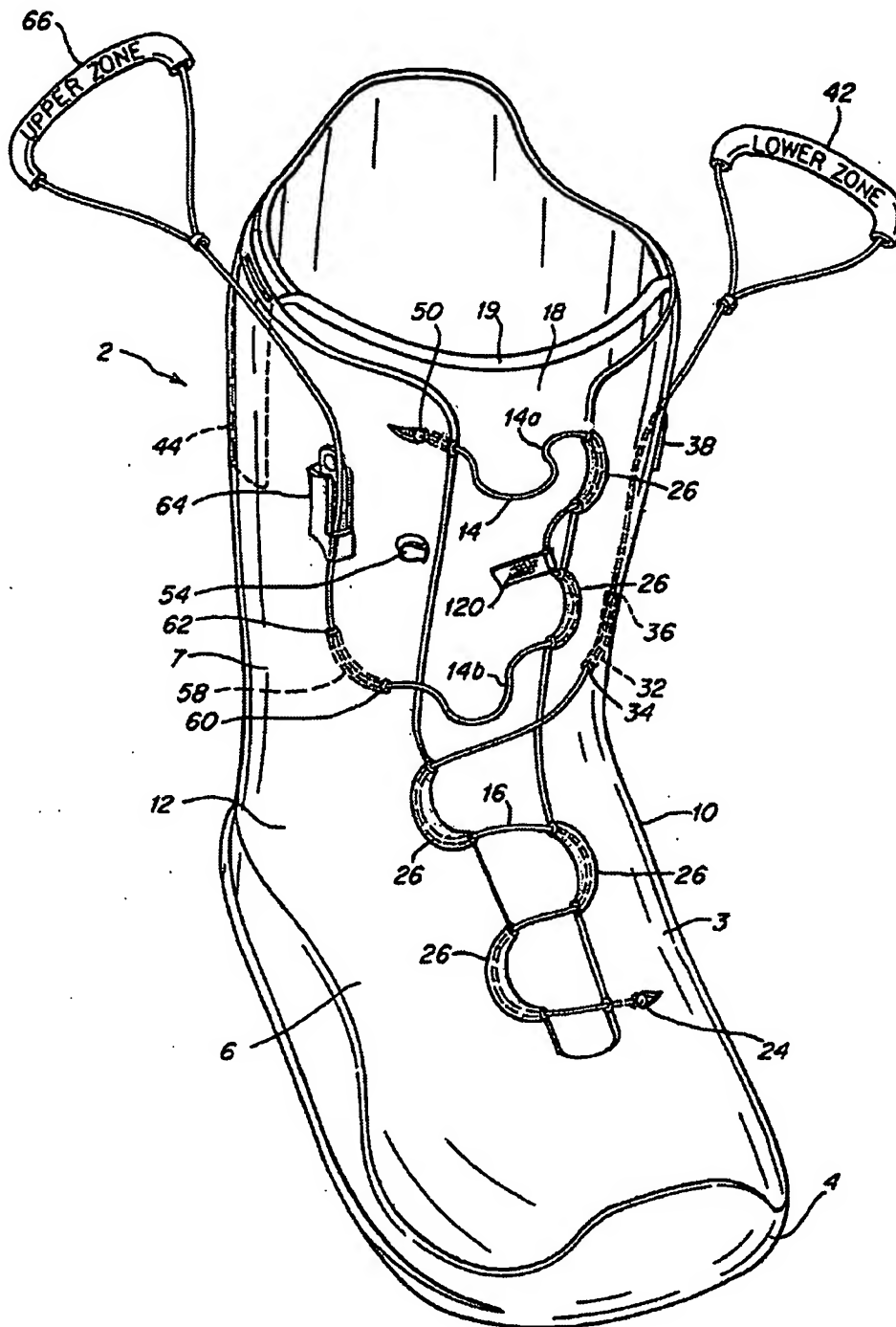


Fig. 3

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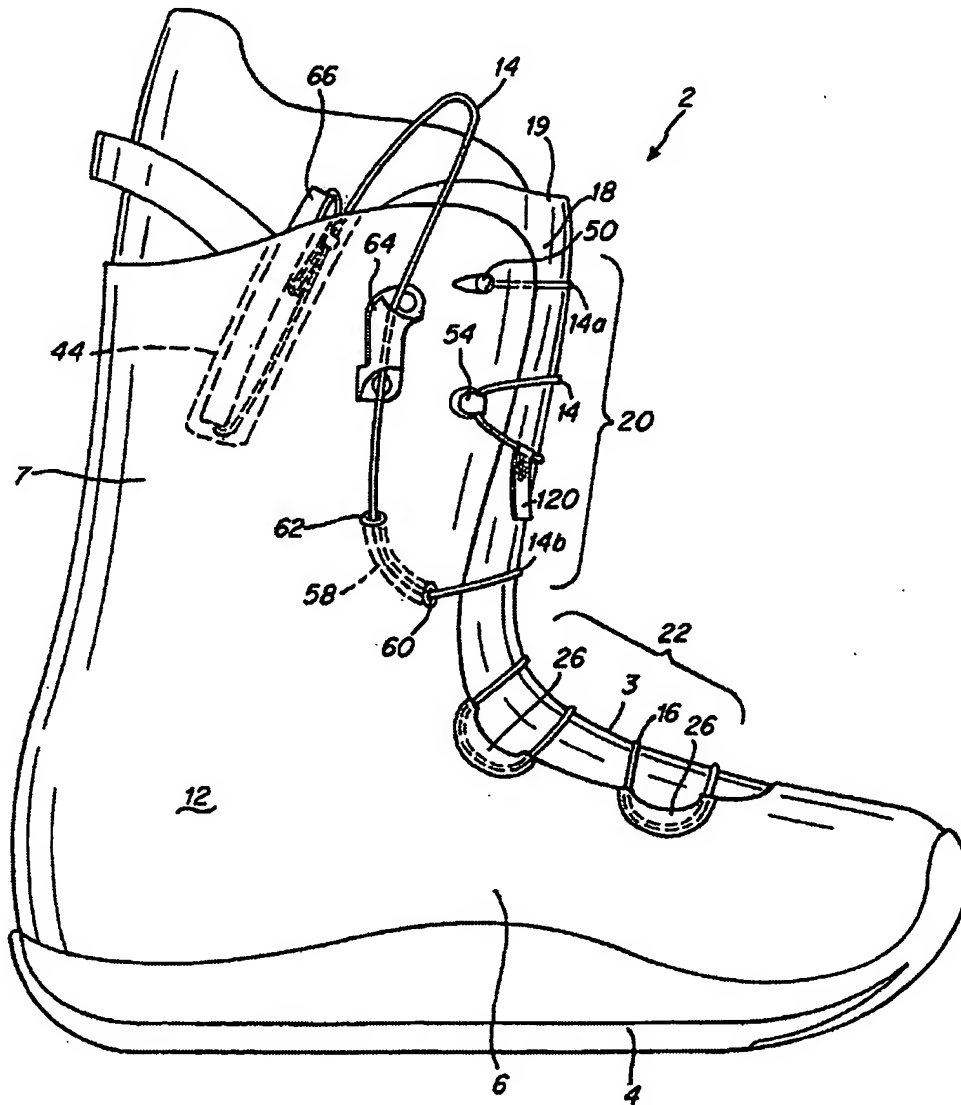


Fig. 4



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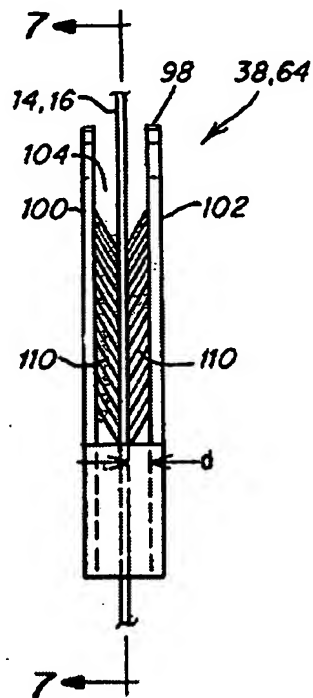


Fig. 6

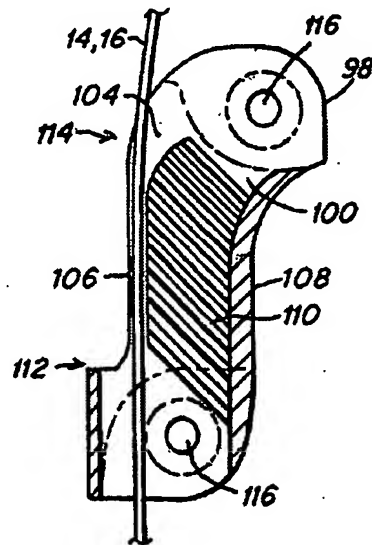


Fig. 7

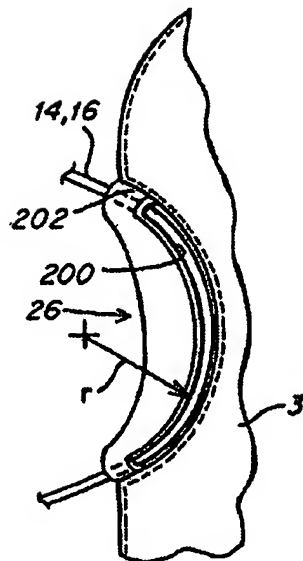


Fig. 8